



Petroglyph Canyon



The Petroglyph Canyon archeological site includes two panels containing a total of over 150 figures. Almost all of these figures are petroglyphs (pecked, scratched, or incised images), but one pictograph (painted) is also present. As you enjoy these images, please remember to *look without touching*—repeated touching has already partly eroded some of these images, adding to the effects of rock spall and, in some cases, deliberate vandalism.

A Vanishing Resource?

Deliberate vandalism impacts many rock art sites, and the Petroglyph Canyon site has been no exception. A more aggressive enforcement of the Archaeological Resources Protection Act and greater public awareness of the value of rock art are two of our best weapons against this destruction of an irreplaceable resource.

Yet such sites also face another threat—unintentional harm caused by the many visitors to such sites. Visitors can impact rock art sites in many ways.

Please Do Not Touch Rock Art Direct contact with rock art is destructive. Repeated touching wears away the images. Applying chalk or other substances can interfere with dating methods, permanently affect the appearance of the images, and otherwise cause damage. Attempts to remove existing graffiti often cause further damage. Respect the past inhabitants of this land and their cultures—leave these panels as you find them.

No Climbing Climbing across rock art panels will damage them by creating marks and encouraging rock spalls. Climbing above rock art can cause falling rock to damage the images. Please do not climb within 100 feet of rock art panels.

Please Stay Outside the Site Camping in archeological sites is illegal; worse, camping activities damage sites. Fires are especially destructive: they can damage rock art through soot staining, the high temperatures can cause the rock to flake, and burning can invalidate techniques used to date the sites.

Stay on Established Trails Foot traffic alters sites in many ways, including removal of vegetation and, often, displacement of artifacts. Restricting the number of trails helps preserve the natural setting.